

What is claimed is:

1. A printed circuit board (PCB) having a terminal block for coupling by screw-operated coupling means at least one conductor to said PCB, said terminal block comprising:

a housing of insulating material, said housing having at least one transverse opening capable of receiving at least one contact member for coupling the at least one conductor to said PCB, and

at least two cavities disposed within said housing, said cavities for accepting the screw-operated coupling means, said housing having a length-wise direction along a reference line, said at least two cavities each having a center point, said center point of at least one of said at least two cavities disposed in an offset position from the reference line in the length-wise direction such that said at least two cavities are staggered with respect to each other.

2. The PCB according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two cavities of said terminal block has a diameter at least equal to the width of the blade of a standard installer screwdriver.

3. The PCB according to claim 1, further comprising at least one contact member disposed within said at least one transverse opening of said housing of said terminal block, said contact member comprising:

an upper portion with a transverse opening, and

a lower portion with a pin, and wherein said upper portion is threaded to accept a screw.

4. The PCB according to claim 3, wherein said contact member further comprises a screw with a head having a diameter at least equal to the width of the blade of a standard installer screwdriver.

5. The PCB according to claim 2, wherein the diameter of said at least one of said at least two cavities is at least equal to 0.125 inches (3.175 mm).

6. The PCB according to claim 4, wherein said head has a diameter at least equal to 0.125 inches (3.175 mm).

7. The PCB according to claim 3, wherein said contact member further comprises a wire guard for guarding a conductor wire.

8. The PCB according to claim 3, wherein said lower portion with a pin is disposed to permit through hole mounting to said PCB.

9. The PCB according to claim 1, wherein said terminal block comprises solder pads permitting surface mounting to a printed circuit board (PCB).

10. The PCB according to claim 1, wherein said terminal block is for coupling by screw-operated conductor-clamping terminal coupling means for coupling at least one conductor to said printed circuit board.

11. The PCB according to claim 1, wherein said terminal block is for coupling by screw-operated insulation displacement terminal coupling means for coupling at least one conductor to a printed circuit board.

12. A printed circuit board (PCB) mountable terminal block for coupling by screw-operated coupling means at least one conductor to a PCB,

said terminal block comprising:

a housing;

at least two cavities within said housing for accommodating a screw of said screw-operated coupling means; and

at least one transverse opening within said housing capable of accommodating a contact member, said at least one transverse opening capable of disposing the contact member on an end surface of the PCB such that the at least one conductor can be coupled to the PCB from the end surface,

said housing having a length-wise direction along a reference line, said at least two cavities each having a center point, said center point of at least one of said at least two cavities disposed in an offset position from the reference line in the length-wise direction such that said at least two cavities are staggered with respect to each other.

13. The terminal block according to claim 12, wherein said housing comprises at least four transverse openings that can be disposed on an end surface of the PCB, said openings each capable of accommodating at least one contact member for coupling a conductor to the PCB.

14. The terminal block according to claim 12, wherein at least one of said at least two cavities of said terminal block has a diameter at least equal to the width of the blade of a standard installer screwdriver.

15. The terminal block according to claim 12, wherein at least one contact member is disposed within said at least one transverse opening of said housing of said terminal block, said contact member comprising:

an upper portion with a transverse opening, and

a lower portion with a pin, and wherein said upper portion is threaded to accept a screw.

16. The terminal block according to claim 15, wherein said contact member further comprises a screw with a head having a diameter at least equal to the width of the blade of a standard installer screwdriver.

17. The terminal block according to claim 14, wherein the diameter of said at least one of said at least two cavities is at least equal to 0.125 inches (3.175 mm).

18. The terminal block according to claim 16, wherein said head has a diameter at least equal to 0.125 inches (3.175 mm).

19. The terminal block according to claim 15, wherein said contact member further comprises a wire guard for guarding a conductor wire.

20. The terminal block according to claim 15, wherein said lower portion with a pin is disposed to permit through hole mounting to said PCB.

21. The terminal block according to claim 12, wherein said terminal block comprises solder pads permitting surface mounting to the PCB.

22. The terminal block according to claim 12, wherein said terminal block is for coupling by screw-operated conductor-clamping terminal coupling means for coupling at least one conductor to said printed circuit board.

23. The terminal block according to claim 12, wherein said terminal block is for coupling by screw-operated insulation displacement terminal coupling means for coupling at least one conductor to a printed circuit board.

24. A printed circuit board (PCB) mountable terminal block for coupling by screw-operated coupling means at least one conductor to a PCB, said terminal block comprising:

a housing;

at least two cavities within said housing for accommodating a screw of said screw-operated coupling means; and

at least one transverse opening within said housing capable of accommodating a contact member,

said housing having a length-wise direction along a reference line, said at least two cavities each having a center point, said center point of at least one of said at least two cavities disposed in an offset position from the reference line in the length-wise direction such that said at least two cavities are staggered with respect to each other, said housing of said terminal block having a height enabling orientation of a length-wise direction of said terminal block transversely with respect to a longitudinal centerline direction of a larger housing enclosing said terminal block and the PCB.

25. The terminal block according to claim 24, wherein said housing of said terminal block comprises at least four transverse openings that can be disposed on an end surface of the PCB, said openings each capable of accommodating said at least one contact member for coupling a conductor to the PCB.

26. The terminal block according to claim 24, wherein at least one of said at least two cavities of said terminal block has a diameter at least equal to the width of the blade of a standard installer screwdriver.

27. The terminal block according to claim 24, wherein at least one contact member is disposed within said at least one transverse opening of said housing of said terminal block, said contact member comprising:

an upper portion with a transverse opening, and

a lower portion with a pin, and wherein said upper portion is threaded to accept a screw.

28. The terminal block according to claim 27, wherein said contact member further comprises a screw with a head having a diameter at least equal to the width of the blade of a standard installer screwdriver.

29. The terminal block according to claim 26, wherein the diameter of said at least one of said at least two cavities is equal to 0.125 inches (3.175 mm).

30. The terminal block according to claim 28, wherein said head has a diameter at least equal to 0.125 inches (3.175 mm).

31. The terminal block according to claim 27, wherein said contact member further comprises a wire guard for guarding a conductor wire.

32. The terminal block according to claim 27, wherein said lower portion with a pin is disposed to permit through hole mounting to said PCB.

33. The terminal block according to claim 24, wherein said terminal block comprises solder pads permitting surface mounting to the PCB.

34. The terminal block according to claim 24, wherein said terminal block is for coupling by screw-operated conductor-clamping terminal coupling means for coupling at least one conductor to the printed circuit board.

35. The terminal block according to claim 24, wherein said terminal block is for coupling by screw-operated insulation displacement terminal coupling means for coupling at least one conductor to the printed circuit board.

36. The terminal block according to claim 24, wherein said housing of said terminal block has a height enabling orientation of a length-wise direction of said terminal block transversely with respect to a longitudinal centerline direction of a larger housing enclosing said terminal block and the PCB, said larger housing having an inner diameter of 1 inch (25.4 mm).

37. A terminal block for coupling by screw-operated coupling means for coupling at least one conductor to a printed circuit board (PCB), said terminal block comprising:

a housing of insulating material, said housing having at least one transverse opening capable of receiving at least one contact member for coupling the at least one conductor to the PCB; and

at least two cavities disposed within said housing, said cavities for accepting the screw-operated coupling means, said housing having a length-wise direction along a reference line, said at least two cavities each having a center point, said center point of at least one of said at least two cavities disposed in an offset position from the reference line in the length-wise direction such that said at least two cavities are staggered with respect to each other.

38. The terminal block according to claim 37, wherein at least one of said at least two cavities has a diameter at least equal to the width of the blade of a standard installer screwdriver.

39. The terminal block according to claim 37, further comprising a contact member disposed within at least one of said at least two cavities, said contact member comprising:

an upper portion with a transverse opening, and

a lower portion with a pin, and wherein said upper portion is threaded to accept a screw.

40. The terminal block according to claim 39, wherein said contact member further comprises a screw with a head having a diameter at least equal to the width of the blade of a standard installer screwdriver.

41. The terminal block according to claim 38, wherein the diameter of said at least one of said at least two cavities is at least equal to 0.125 inches (3.175 mm).

42. The terminal block according to claim 40, wherein said head has a diameter at least equal to 0.125 inches (3.175 mm).

43. The terminal block according to claim 39, wherein said contact member further comprises a wire guard for guarding a conductor wire.

44. The terminal block according to claim 39, wherein said lower portion with a pin is disposed to permit through hole mounting to a printed circuit board (PCB).

45. The terminal block according to claim 37, wherein said terminal block comprises solder pads permitting surface mounting to a printed circuit board (PCB).

46. The terminal block according to claim 37, wherein said terminal block is for coupling by screw-operated conductor-clamping terminal coupling means for coupling at least one conductor to a printed circuit board.

47. The terminal block according to claim 37, wherein said terminal block is for coupling by screw-operated insulation displacement terminal coupling means for coupling at least one conductor to a printed circuit board.



48. The terminal block according to claim 37, wherein said housing comprises at least four transverse openings that can be disposed on an end surface of the PCB, said openings each capable of accommodating at least one contact member for coupling a conductor to the PCB.